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Dear Bill:

We thought you might like to read the enclosed review in Parameters (Autumn 1985) of Special Operations in US Strategy which, you may recall, is the resultant publication of a conference we cosponsored with the National Defense University.

With best wishes, I am

Cordially,

Dorothy E. Nicolosi
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Hon. William J. Casey
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Washington, DC 20505

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VOL. XV NO. 3

AUTUMN 1985

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Parameters is a journal of ideas, providing a forum for the expression of mature professional thought on the art and science of land warfare, national and international security affairs, military history, military strategy, military leadership and management, military ethics, and other topics of significant and current interest to the US Army and the Department of Defense. Further, it serves as a vehicle for continuing the education, and thus the professional development, of War College graduates and other military officers and civilians concerned with military affairs.

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Dear Bill:

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Special Operations in US Strategy

On the premise that more imagination is required -- in both doctrine and weaponry -- to counter the escalating Soviet unconventional military threat, NSIC convened a conference (cosponsored by the National Defense University and the National Security Studies Program at Georgetown University), in March of 1983, to address the need to revitalize special warfare and counterintelligence skills.

While no attempt was made at the conference on "The Role of Special Operations in the 1980s" to achieve a consensus, with the participants representing a wide range of views on substantive and organizational issues, the overall conclusions were that insurgency, guerrilla warfare, terrorism, and other forms of "low-intensity conflict" will continue to threaten the political, economic and geostrategic interests of the United States, Europe, and Japan in the Third World.

The major papers delivered at the conference, as well as the discussion sessions that followed each presentation, were recently copublished by the National Defense University Press and NSIC. Special Operations in US Strategy highlights how, in the last dozen years, Moscow dramatically has increased its low-intensity conflict skills and those of its surrogates. For example, drawing from a pool of many thousands KGB, MVD, GRU, and army paramilitary forces, the Kremlin maintains special, elite Spetsnaz units charged with the conduct of sensitive operations abroad.

Additionally, the Soviets employ various surrogate forces to promote insurgency, terrorism, and subversion. This low risk strategy gives Moscow the option to sap the economic health of the U.S., Europe, and Japan by guerrilla warfare assaults on the oil and mineral treasures of the Third World. Cuban and East German "mercenaries," for example, are currently active in ten Third World countries. Moscow also can

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draw upon Czech, North Korean, Vietnamese, Libyan, South Yemeni, and PLO assets. These developments provide the Soviet Union with a tri-continental consortium for conducting low-intensity warfare.

Conversely, since our withdrawal from Vietnam the United States has been particularly ill-prepared to wage this sort of unconventional conflict. Furthermore, those halting efforts that have been undertaken are criticized even by its NATO allies and a significant bloc in Congress. This is due, in large part, to the fact that the Western democracies are still stultified by a form of warfare undefined and misunderstood in national security policy and strategy. Special operations may not always appear compatible with the American values; however, this misperception can be reversed by an explanation both of the seriousness of the threat and the fact that US special operations can often save lives and further U.S. interests.

You'll note from the enclosed flyer that Secretary of the Army Jack Marsh heads the list of distinguished contributors drawn from both the private and public sectors. If you would like to have a copy of the book, please let me know.

With best regards, I am

Faithfully,



Frank R. Barnett

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Hon. William J. Casey
Director
Central Intelligence Agency
Washington, DC 20505

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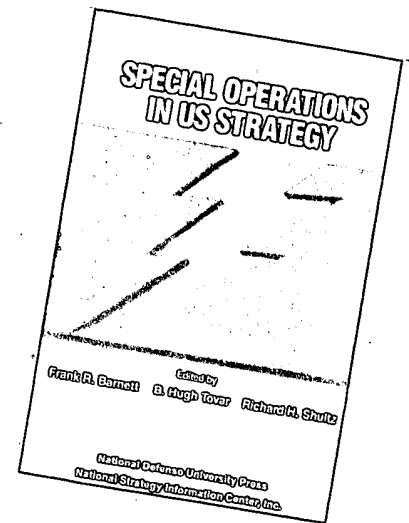
TERRORISM
GUERRILLA WARFARE
REVOLUTION
SUBVERSION

- ★ CAN THE UNITED STATES COPE WITH THESE CHALLENGES?
- ★ HOW SHOULD IT RESPOND TO UNCONVENTIONAL THREATS?
- ★ WHAT ARE THE REAL LESSONS OF VIETNAM?

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Recent events in Central America and the Middle East have highlighted the clear and persistent growth of guerrilla insurgency, state-sponsored terrorism, and other forms of irregular warfare. While American leaders and citizens remain justifiably concerned with the prevention of nuclear war, the nation may be less prepared to deal with other, far more likely security threats in the 1980s and 1990s.

SPECIAL OPERATIONS IN US STRATEGY (\$7.95, softbound) a joint project of the National Strategy Information Center (NSIC) and the National Defense University (NDU), examines the entire spectrum of "low-intensity" conflict, including psychological warfare, organized terrorism, and political subversion of incumbent regimes. The volume evaluates the American experience with "special forces" in Vietnam and elsewhere, and offers a wide range of organizational and doctrinal prescriptions for a renewed and effective US special operations capability.



An Unprecedented Spectrum of Expertise...

Edited by Frank R. Barnett, B. Hugh Tovar, and Richard H. Shultz, ***SPECIAL OPERATIONS IN US STRATEGY*** is a comprehensive collection of authoritative essays and discussion sessions focusing on unconventional warfare and special operations. Written by the leading officials and scholars in the field, the papers were delivered at NSIC's Symposium on Special Operations held at the National Defense University. The volume contains provocative arguments and debate on such questions as:

- ★ What are "special operations?"
- ★ Can (and should) a democracy engage in "covert" military or paramilitary missions abroad?
- ★ How do the Soviets view special operations and unconventional conflict?
- ★ What are the respective roles of the Defense Department and the intelligence community in conducting special operations?

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- ★ The relationship between intelligence assets and special operations...
- ★ Economic aid and security assistance as instruments of a special operations capability...

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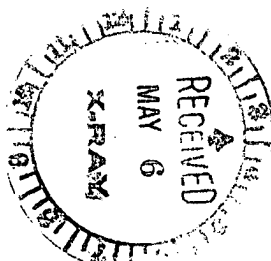
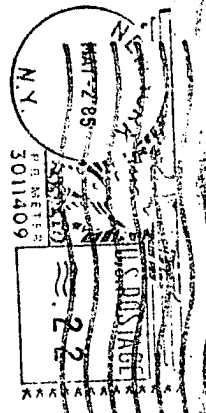
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